

**VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH
6520 CENTER ST.
P.O. BOX 265
ELLSWORTH, MICHIGAN 49729**

Phone (231) 588-7411

Fax (231) 588-2079

August 27, 2004

Richard Annan, Acting Director
Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1522
Washington, DC 20250-1522

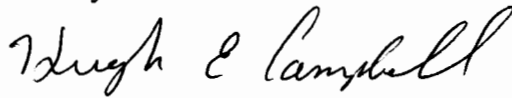
Mr. Richard Annan, Acting Director

Subject: Definition Clarification of State Non-metropolitan Median Household Income (SNMHI)

The Village of Ellsworth is encouraged by the action being taken by the RD regarding a change in the SNMHI. Last year's indicator gave the appearance that Ellsworth was a relatively wealthy community compared to the State Median Household Income. The new definition would reduce this negative impact to rural communities such that they will continue to be eligible for Rural Development financial assistance.

The Village of Ellsworth would like to thank the RD for all the programs they offer to rural America.

Sincerely



Hugh E. Campbell, President
Village of Ellsworth

copies: Representative Bart Stupak
Senator Carl Levin
Senator Debbie Stabenow